

# The Michigan Electronic Grants System (MEGS)

Welcomes

**Head Start Agencies** 



Last Updated: March 11, 2002



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# What is MEGS?

### The Michigan Electronic Grants System

- The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is utilizing MEGS to allow agencies to apply for grants on-line using the Internet.
- We anticipate that all MDE grants will eventually use this system.
- Grant reporting will soon be available through MEGS.

MEGS is a "work in progress." Pages/screens are frequently changing. Please keep this in mind when using this Powerpoint file. Thank you.



# Head Start Verification/Collaboration for the Michigan School Readiness Program

Available on-line March 2002



#### What is Needed to Use MEGS?

(Computer/Software Requirements)

- 1. An Internet Connection
- Web Browser(IE/Netscape 4.0+)
- JavaScript and Session Cookies enabled for the Web Browser
- 4. Adobe Acrobat Reader 4.0+
- 5. An E-mail Address
- A Valid MEIS Account



#### MEGS: Michigan Electronic Grants System

Welcome to MEGS, the Michigan Electronic Grants System. Founded in 2001 by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), MEGS helps to expedite and improve the application process by using the power of the Internet. MEGS' features include

- · Allowing you to view and print information about a grant and its current application
- Providing a secure environment for on-line applicants to complete, submit, amend, and track their
  applications.
- · Automatically reviewing applications to reduce the number of initial application errors.
- Allowing MDE reviewers to conduct their reviews online and share the results of the review with the
  applicant immediately.
- · Posting allocations as soon as they are determined

Please explore the MEGS web site to learn more about this innovative on-line grants system. If you have any questions or comments regarding MEGS, feel free to contact the Michigan Department of Education





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#### **Quick Facts About MEGS**

- 1. Users must have access to a working Internet connection.
- 2. MEGS can be accessed from multiple machines.
- 3. MEGS itself does not impose any hardware requirements on its users; however, you do need a computer with enough hard drive space to have a web browser and Adobe Acrobat Reader installed.
- 4. MEGS is accessible through a common Web browser.
- 5. MEGS is located at http://meis.mde.state.mi.us/megs/

#### Internet connection

- Modem (telephone lines) will be sufficient.
- DSL or cable modems are faster.
- The faster the connection, the faster it is to use MEGS.



# What is an Internet Browser and Which Ones Can Be Used?

An Internet Browser is computer software used to browse (view) the World Wide Web.

MEGS supports Internet Explorer (IE) or Netscape versions 4.0 or higher. <u>IE is the "preferred" (not required) browser</u>.

To check the version number of your current browser: Have the browser open, click 'Help,' then click 'About Internet Explorer' or 'About Netscape.'

If the version you have is below 4.0, you can download the latest version by going to one of the two links below:

http://www.microsoft.com/windows/ie/default.asp http://home.netscape.com/download/

Browsers are free software. They can however, take a great deal of time to download and install. Each of the above web sites provides you with information on how to order a CD with the updated browser installation program. The CD will not arrive in time to benefit you for this year but would benefit you in future interaction with MEGS.









### What is JavaScript?

JavaScript is a programming language that is used on websites to increase functionality. In MEGS, JavaScript is used for a variety of features including the automatic correction of user-entered data.

# To confirm that JavaScript is enabled on Internet Explorer:

Click 'Tools' on Toolbar.

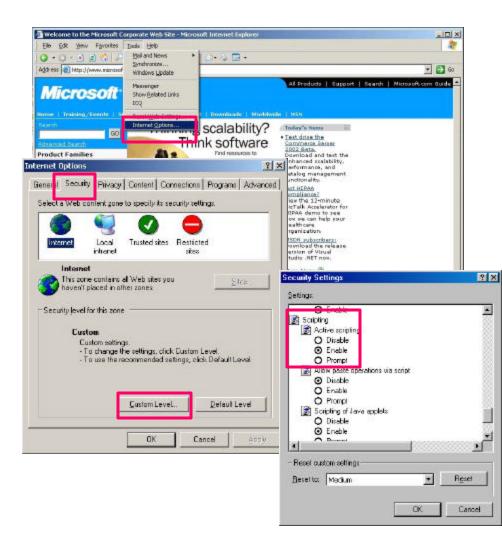
Click 'Internet Options.'

Click the '**Security'** tab (in some versions of Internet Explorer you will find it under Privacy).

Click 'Custom Level.'

Scroll down to 'Scripting,' 'Active Scripting,' make sure that 'Enable' is selected.

If MEGS detects that JavaScript is disabled for the browser, MEGS will show this list of steps.





### What is JavaScript? (continued)

JavaScript is also used in MEGS to do tasks such as open new windows, provide a menu system, and supply user-friendly error messages.

To confirm that JavaScript is enabled in Netscape (in some versions of Netscape these instructions could vary slightly):

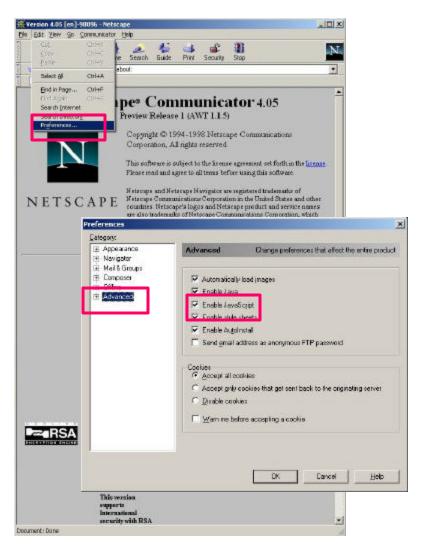
Click 'Edit.'

Click 'Preferences.'

Click 'Advanced.'

Be sure that 'Enable JavaScript' is checked.

If MEGS detects that JavaScript is disabled for the browser, MEGS will show this list of steps.





#### What are Session Cookies?

Cookies are either files or pieces of information temporarily stored in computer memory that are used to record information.

MEGS uses <u>session</u> cookies.

To confirm that session cookies are allowed in Internet Explorer (in some versions of Internet Explorer these instructions could vary slightly):

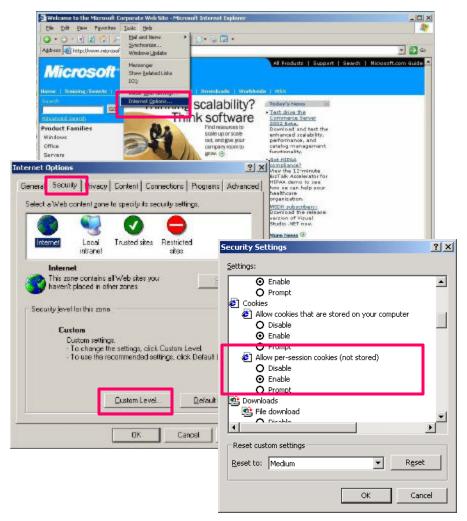
Click 'Tools.'

Click 'Internet Options.'

Click the 'Security' tab.

Click 'Custom Level.'

Under 'Cookie,' 'Allow per-session cookies' (not stored). Make sure that 'Enable' is selected.





### What are Session Cookies? (continued)

Although some in the Internet community are concerned about the abuse of cookies which are often used for marketing purposes, the session cookies used by MEGS do not warrant any sort of concern.

No sensitive data is stored within these cookies and once you logoff MEGS or close your browser, each session cookie is automatically removed.

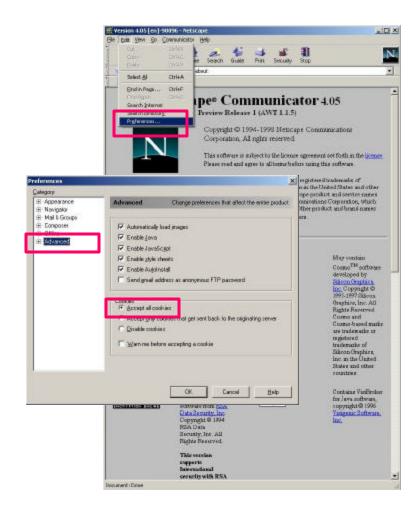
## To confirm that session cookies are allowed in Netscape:

Click 'Edit.'

Click 'Preferences.'

Click 'Advanced' (in newer versions of Netscape you will find it under Privacy and Security).

Under 'Cookies' be sure that 'Accept all Cookies' (or 'Enable all cookies') is selected.





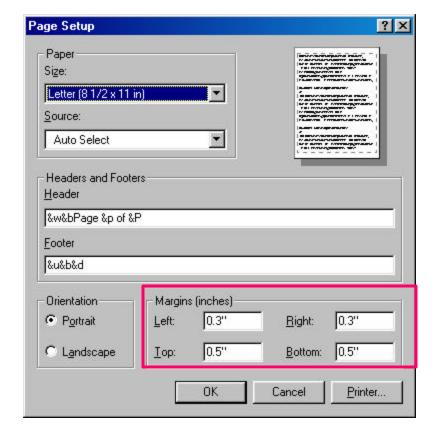
### **Printing Screens**



- You can print any single page in your browser by clicking the printer icon on your browser's toolbar.
- 2. If the printed page cuts off on the right or left sides, you need to change your print margins.

#### **Changing Print Margins in Internet Explorer**

- Click 'File,' then click 'Page Setup.'
- 2. Type in a new left and right margin (try .3). Some printers will not allow you to enter a number lower than they have the capability of printing. If this happens, you may not be able to adjust this number to a setting that will fully print your page.
- 3. Type in a new top and bottom margin (try .5).
- 4. Click '**OK**.'





### E-mail Addresses

Skip this page if you already have your <u>own</u> e-mail address.

#### MEGS and E-mail Addresses:

- You need <u>your own</u> e-mail address for use in MEGS.
- An e-mail address allows you to send electronic messages over the Internet to others with e-mail addresses. It also allows anyone with an e-mail address to send messages to you.
- Under certain circumstances you will receive an e-mail message confirming receipt of information you have provided to MEGS. MEGS may also send you e-mail messages with information regarding your grant program.

#### To obtain an e-mail address:

- Numerous websites offer <u>free</u> e-mail addresses. Contact any one of these websites, and follow their directions to obtain a free e-mail address.
- If you are unsure of what website to check, following are a few that offer free e-mail:

http://www.yahoo.com/ http://www.hotmail.com/ http://www.excite.com/



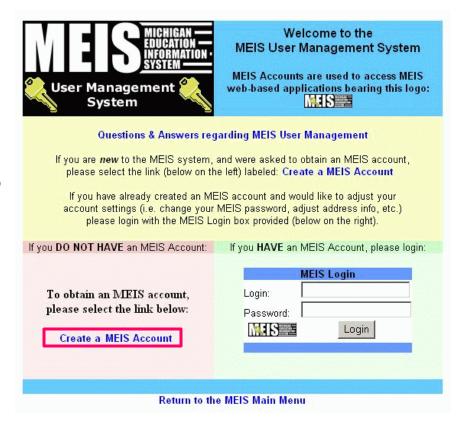
# What is MEIS and How Can an Account Be Obtained?

MEIS is the Michigan Education Information System. This one system is used for the management of a variety of MDE applications.

Important: In order to use MEGS (and potentially other State of Michigan systems) you must first obtain a MEIS account. Anyone who uses MEGS should have his/her own MEIS account. It is easy to obtain a MEIS account. Simply follow these instructions. While in your browser, type in the following URL (website address) and then click 'Create a MEIS Account.'

http://meis.mde.state.mi.us/userman/

If you already have a MEIS account, please skip to slide 18. To confirm whether or not you already have a MEIS account, follow the instructions for Create a MEIS Account. Head Start agencies are already using MEIS to access competitive grant funds, and the Child and Adult Care Food Program.





### Create a MEIS Account in Four Easy Steps

After clicking on 'Create a MEIS Account' enter the first and last name of the user account to be created.

Click the 'Proceed to Step 2' button and add the basic biographical information.

Click the 'Proceed to Step 3' button.



7.5	
Welcome Doe John	s, please provide us with the following contact information:
	Contact Information in is intended to be used to keep you informed of important a verified, etc. that relate to the MEIS system.
information should of	he best and most detailed information possible. If your contact range of a later date, please be sure to visit the MEIS User eg website and uposte your profile. Thanksyou
Email Address :	
Phone 1:	
Phone 2:	
Address 1:	
Address 2:	
City:	
State:	
Zip:	
ISD Code :	(sytional)
District Code :	(optional)
	(optional)
Building Code:	

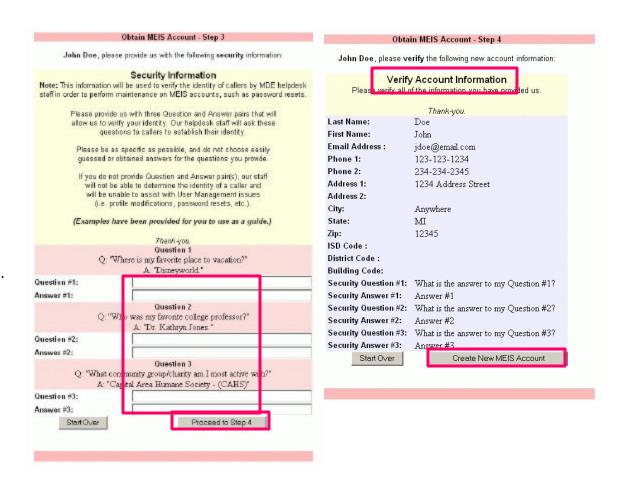


#### More on MEIS Accounts

Step 3 is used for getting password help.

Step 4 requires the user to verify all the data.

After clicking the 'Create New MEIS Account' button, a new user account is created.





### Confirming Your MEIS Account

The final screen will confirm your account.

Hint: Print this page for your records.

Hint: Change your password immediately.

Hint: Keep your MEIS Login Name, MEIS Password and MEIS Account ID # in a safe place.

Warning: Passwords are case-sensitive

Your agency's authorized official needs your MEIS Account ID # (NOT your MEIS login name or password – keep these to yourself). Once your agency's authorized official has entered your MEIS account # into MEGS, you will be able to access MEGS.





### **MEGS Security Authorization**

The Chief Operating Officer of your agency must complete and submit, to the Michigan Department of Education, a MEGS Security Authorization form. This form assigns a maximum of 2 people to serve as Authorized Officials for your organization. This electronic form and the directions for completion can be found on the following website:

#### http://www.mde.state.mi.us/money/

- Upon receipt of the completed MEGS Security Authorization form, the Michigan Department of Education will process it.
- Once this form has been processed, authorized officials can log into MEGS.
- Only an authorized official can enter Head Start verification data in MEGS.

duca		MEGS)
District/Reci		ity Authorization
District/Reci	() - [시설 - 10]	120
District recei	nem code.	
includes the		he Authorized Official for your organization. This role by to assign secondary access to the MEGS system with second security authorization.
	☐ Primary	Alternate
	*Name (type or print)	Title
*required fie	*Email address	*Phone number w/area code
Step 2. Ente	r MEIS Account of the Authorized Offic *MEIS Account:	cial:
Step 3. To v	erify or create a MEIS Account, go to the	he following URL: http://new.mde state.mi.us/usenman
3a.	To verify an existing MEIS account, log	g in to MEIS and ensure the account is still valid.
36.	To create a new MEIS account, click or	the Create New Account link and follow instructions.
Step 4. Autl	norized Official Acknowledgment:	
	I agree to protect my user identificat all activity under my user ID is my r	tion and password from unauthorized use. I understand responsibility.
	Replacement De	signee
	Signature of Designated Authorized	d Official Date
Step 5. Supe	rintendent or Chief Operating Officer:	
		ual is authorized to initiate and electronically submit ment of Education and to designate other individuals we edit grant applications.
	Name of Organization	<del></del>
	Signature of the Superintendent or	Chief Operating Officer
	m is complete, it should be forwarded to	MDE Attn: Mary Ann Chartrand.
Address:	Michigan Dept. of Education Office of Budget, Contracts and Gran P.O. Box 30008	ds

Lansing, MI 48909



#### How Do I Access MEGS?

An authorized official whose MEGS Security Authorization form has been processed or a user with a valid MEIS account who has been entered into MEGS by his/her authorized official can login to MEGS.

http://meis.mde.state.mi.us/megs/

The first screen gives basic information about the purpose of MEGS and provides a link to the MEGS logon screen.

Look here for more information in the future.

Bookmark this page in your web browser. This will allow you to quickly return to this login screen each time you need to access MFGS.



Welcome to MEGS, the Michigan Electronic Grants System. Founded in 2001 by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), MEGS helps to expedite and improve the application process by using the power of the Internet. NEGS features include

- · Allowing you to view and print information about a grant and its current application
- Providing a secure environment for on-line applicants to complete, submit, amend, and track their applications.
- · Automatically reviewing applications to reduce the number of initial application errors.
- Allowing MDE reviewers to conduct their reviews priline and share the results of the review with the applicant immediately.
- . Posting allocations as soon as they are determined.

Please explore the MEGS web site to learn more about this innovative on-line grants system. If you have any questions or comments regarding MEGS, feel free to contact the Michigan Department of Education





# Bookmarks in Internet Explorer

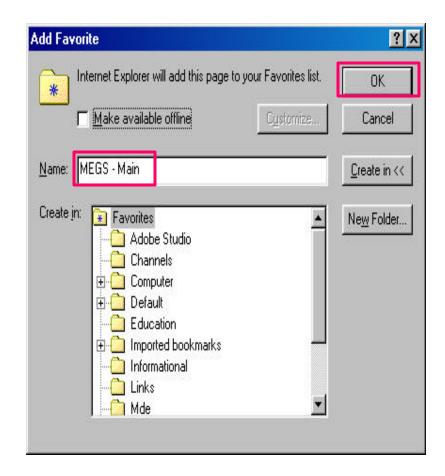
# To set a bookmark in Internet Explorer:

- Open 'Internet Explorer.'
- On the toolbar click 'Favorites,' then 'Add to Favorites.'
- Notice the Name.
- Click 'OK.'

MICHIGAN<sup>1</sup>

# The next time you open Internet Explorer:

- On the toolbar click 'Favorites.'
- Locate 'MEGS Main' in the list of favorites, then click on it.
- The MEGS login screen should appear.





# Bookmarks in Netscape

# To set a bookmark in Netscape:

- Open Netscape.
- On the toolbar click 'Bookmarks' then 'Add Bookmark.'
- Nothing happens on the screen but your bookmark has been saved.

# The next time you open Netscape:

- On the toolbar click 'Bookmarks.'
- Locate 'MEGS Main' in the list of bookmarks and click.
- The MEGS login screen should appear.



### Logging into MEGS

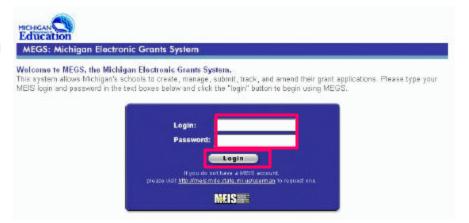
Type in the Login and Password obtained from the MEIS Registration Process to log in to MEGS. (The MEIS Account ID # is NOT used here.)

Click the 'Login' button.

Remember, the MEIS password is case sensitive.

If you receive an error message that you have a valid MEIS account, but are not authorized in MEGS, contact your Authorized Official.

Hint: When using the Internet, it can take a while for your screen to change after you have clicked a button. Please be patient. Multiple clicking of a button may actually slow the system down.





#### Avoid the "Back" and "Forward" Buttons

MEGS is a dynamic, database driven, web application. Content in MEGS changes according to information that is entered into the system. When applicants enter important information into the system, it changes the way they see certain parts of the application; therefore, it is highly recommended that users use the navigation provided within the application (see slide 27).

Using the browser's 'back' and 'forward' buttons to return to a page is not the same as clicking a link to go to exactly the same page. The back button will simply load the cached (or saved) version of the page that exists on the local hard drive as it was the last time the page was accessed. By using the 'back' button the user is not getting the latest information from the website but rather an 'older' saved version of the page.

### <u>Avoid</u> the 'Back' and 'Forward' buttons in order to always see the latest information available.



Slide 23



### Authorized Officials: Getting Started

From the Main Menu, Head Start Authorized Officials can:

- Enter, edit and save data.
- Add users to MEGS (will probably not be used by Head Start agencies).
- Edit Contact Information.
- This Powerpoint manual provides instructions for entering Head Start verification data. There are separate instructions for editing a CNRA using MEGS. If you are a Head Start grant writer for a CNRA, download those instructions from

http://www.state.mi.us/mde/off/staa/earlychild/index.htm

MICHIGAN Education		User: Dr. Joshua Scott Tkaczyk
Main Menu   Help		Logout
Welcome, Dr. Joshua Scott Tka As a Authorized official for your	czyk of Agate Head Start, to MEGS. agency you can:	
Initiate a Application	Enter Demographic Data	Maintain MEGS Accounts
Capacity Building	Head Start Data	<ul> <li>Add Users to MEGS</li> </ul>
Click Apply for a New Grant		• Edit Contact Information



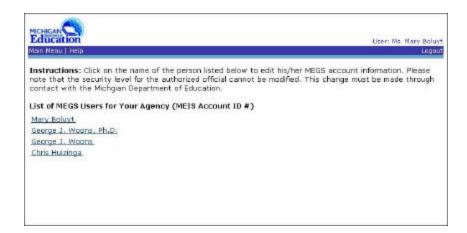
# Maintain MEGS Accounts Edit Contact Information

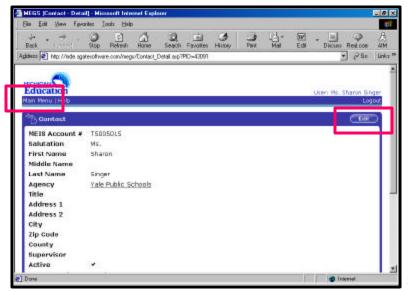
#### Maintain MEGS Accounts

- Add Users to MEGS
- Edit Contact Information

#### To Edit Contact Information:

- 1. From the Main Menu, click 'Edit Contact Information' link.
- 2. A list of names associated with the user's agency is displayed. Each name is a link to a page where contact information and security levels can be edited.
- 3. To edit the information, click the blue 'Edit' button at the top of the information.
- 4. Make appropriate changes and click the blue 'Save' button. If no changes are to be made at this time, click the 'Cancel' button to return to the Edit Contact Information page. Then click the 'Main Menu' link to return to the Main Menu page.



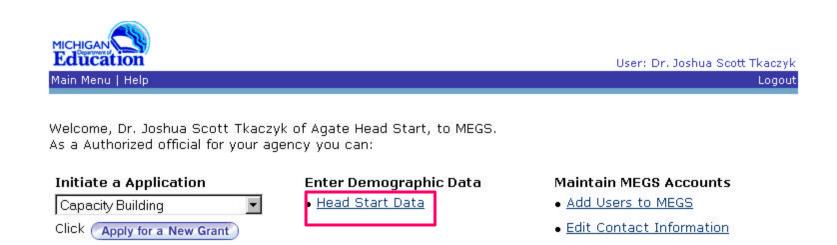




### **Head Start Verification Data**

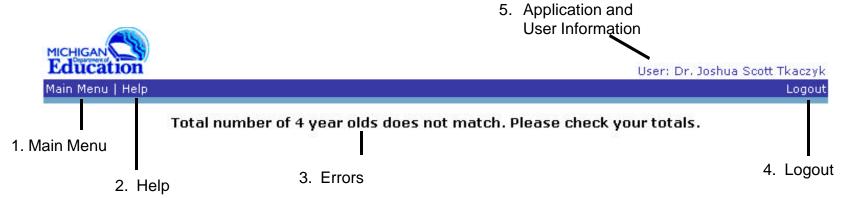
#### To enter Head Start Data:

1. From the Main Menu click 'Head Start Data.'





#### Header Toolbar

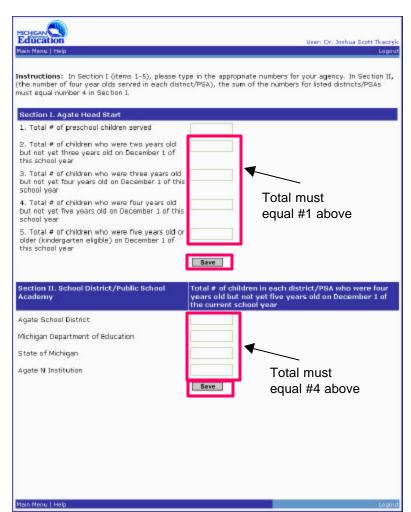


- **1. Main Menu** Allows the user to return to the "start" page.
- 2. **Help** This link will take the user to <u>specific</u> help information for each page. This feature is the first line of defense for question or problems that users might encounter.
- **3. Errors** This message displays errors that must be resolved in order to save the Head Start data.
- **4. Logout** This link will log the user out of the application.
- **5. Application and User Information** Displays the current user's name.



# **Entering Data and Error Checking**

- Read the instructions at the top of the screen.
- In Section I, report the total number of preschool children served by Head Start, and provide sub-totals of that number by age groups. When Section I has been completed, click 'Save.'
- In Section II, report by school district/PSA the number of <u>four-year-old</u> children served by Head Start. The total of all the school districts/PSAs should equal the number you entered in Section I item number 4 above. When Section II has been completed, click 'Save.'
- After you click 'Save,' errors will appear at the top of the screen just below the MEGS toolbar.
- Errors must be resolved, then re-click both
   'Save' buttons





# Questions?

#### **Please** check for answers in this order:

- 1. Click 'Help' on the Header Toolbar. Each page in MEGS has specific help designed for that page.
- Questions regarding downloading of computer software and software settings should be referred to the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) Help Desk via e-mail at <a href="help-desk@michigan.gov">help-desk@michigan.gov</a> or call the Help Desk at (517) 335-0505.
- 3. Program-related questions should be referred to an MDE Early Childhood & Parenting Programs' consultant. Consultants can be reached at (517) 373-8483.